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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report

Dated: 7-19 October 1942

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P R E F A C E

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. A total of 145 reports, [redacted] appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. [redacted] include mostly daily reports for March 1943 as well as a few monthly reports covering the latter part of 1942 and the early part of 1943. The last four reports, [redacted] summarize Soviet economic activities for periods of three to nine months in 1943 and 1944.

FOIA b3a three of these reports have been translated. FOIA b3a One hundred reports, [redacted] are being translated and issued by Strategic Division of the Office of Research and Reports (OSR). The series will be completed with the publication of [redacted]

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

7-19 October 1942

The Soviet Union

Military-Economic Report

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

1. Personnel Situation

(1) In Uralsk Oblast' personnel are needed for operating tractors. Draft animals are to be employed, for which reason the work will progress much slower. Also in Kustanai Komsomol' members are being called up for field work. In Kazakhstan, as a result of the military draft, forest and timber workers are required. The supply of wood fuel in Kustanai cannot be carried out for that reason. In Siberia the workers of the NKRF are to be employed in their free time for river work, at a 25 to 50% rise in wages.

(2) Measures are to be effected for the transport of oil workers from Baku to the east by way of Krasnovodsk.

(3) Workers, who are to be directly employed at oil wells, are not subject to call to military service.

2. Food Situation

(4) In Uralsk Oblast' the harvest work is finished. As a result of the extraordinarily good harvest of bread grains, a lack of storage area prevails.

(5) The harvest in Aktyubinsk Oblast' is in general satisfactory.

(6) In Kazakhstan, in order to assure field cultivation, 40% of all draft animals from the kolkhozes are to be drawn into this work, since there is a shortage of tractors and fuel.

(7) The harvest in Georgia has fallen below plan. The faulty performance of tractor stations has resulted in limited grain deliveries.

(8) The repetition of the previous year's mistakes in the sunflower and linseed harvest in Armenia would endanger oil and soap supply to the front and homeland as a result of enemy occupation of important areas.

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

(9) The sunflower harvest in Kustanai is proceeding poorly. Tractor repairs cannot be carried out. Both are the result of a shortage of manpower.

(10) The tillage at sovkhoses in Kustanai is unsatisfactory. The level of cultivation has not increased.

(11) In Aktyubinsk the potato harvest is endangered by a shortage of workers.

(12) The cattle taken from the western oblasti in Uralsk and Gurev to south Kazakhstan by way of Aktyubinsk was to be herded further on. This is impracticable since there is a lack of fodder in Aktyubinsk and Uralsk. The cattle are to be driven as far as possible in Saratov Oblast', and where this is not feasible, are to be slaughtered. Some of the milk cows and draft oxen have already been slaughtered. In Aktyubinsk in one rajon 4,000 sheep and all the pigs have been slaughtered, because there is no possibility for foddering them. A part of the cattle were destroyed in transit.

(13) For the gift collection for the front, tobacco, biscuits, sugar, and canned meat are in top demand. Through an order of the NKRF of 18 October to all subordinate offices, the following has been ordered:

1. As passenger luggage adults may carry 16 kilograms of food, and children, 8 kilograms.
2. The acceptance of express goods and current consignments of food by civilians is to be discontinued.
3. The authorities have to produce a permit certificate from the NK for Supply.
4. As food the following are in favor: vegetables, potatoes, bread-grains, groats, meat and fish products, tea, sugar, wine and others.
5. All food cargoes which were registered after 1 October are subject to confiscation and disposal.

3. Industry

(14) The plants in Molotov cannot fulfill the requirements of the NKRF for ship spare parts. The NKRF plant in Ust-Usa delivered only 27% of the planned amount of ship spare parts, and 66% of the motors. Ship repairs can, therefore, not be carried out.

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

(15) In Yakutsk, airplane workshops and an experimental station of the Civil Air Fleet are being built.

(16) In Kustanai a sugar refinery is being built.

(17) The manufacturing industry in West Kazakhstan cannot fulfill the October plan.

(18) 15,000 tons of iron metal are to be transported to Krasnovodsk from the Transcaucasus by way of Baku, by means of which a metal reserve will insure production in the winter of 1942-43.

(19) The Molotov and Kirov offices of the NKRF are designated to produce from their own auxiliary resources a larger number of bast shoes, (Kirov 15,000 pair), probably because of a leather shortage.

(20) An industrial plant is being evacuated from Murmansk.

4. Fuel Situation

(21) Lubricating oil and grease are to be delivered to the NKRF in only about 25% of the September allocation. Because of a lack of fuel all ships of the NKRF, except hospital ships, are to be immediately taken into winter anchorage and laid up. The NKRF must still lay hands on the quantities of fuel allotted for November.

(22) In Aktyubinsk Oblast' there is a complete lack of fuel.

(23) According to the State Plan the industrial enterprises are receiving a fuel allocation reduced by 10 to 15%.

(24) Larger petroleum and fuel stocks exist in Krasnovodsk rajon.

(25) "Cheremkhovo-Coal" was also recently converted to coke.

(26) Kuznetsk Basin has not fulfilled the September plan for coal deliveries. The Moscow Basin is working well. The fuel supply of Moscow for the winter is guaranteed (radio broadcast). On the radio and in the press the greatest economy in the use of current and coal is called for.

5. Transportation

(27) The transport situation is causing considerable difficulties. However, attempts are being made to overcome these difficulties by all available means.

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

(28) From Uralsk all shipments go to Alma Ata by way of Gurev. Transport, however, cannot be carried out because only old men and women are available as transport workers.

(29) Transport work--especially for food transport--is to be carried out by the workers of all plants in their free time. A payment for the overtime completed "for the good of the Fatherland" is not to be guaranteed.

(30) Uralsk can deliver no grain to Gurev, because there is a shortage of sacks and no possibility exists for ship transport.

(31) Uralsk is overflowing with evacuees, who are finding no possibility of work. The people must be sent further on toward East Kazakhstan.

(32) In Uralsk, evacuated plants and complete sovkhoses have arrived, for which quarters and supply are causing great difficulties.

(33) The Directorate of the Lower Volga Steamship Agency must be accommodated in Engels instead of in Saratov because of a lack of room.

(34) In Astrakhan the entire population is to be evacuated.

(35) A road trip from Gurev to Aktyubinsk lasts seven days.

(36) The trains are not running regularly any longer and are greatly delayed.

(37) A trip to and from Moscow is only permissible with a militia pass.

6. Miscellaneous

(38) The collection of gifts for the front is being carried out with emphasis by the Komsomols in Uralsk and Aktyubinsk.

(39) In Baku, taking of motion pictures of workers' groups for an exhibition in America is being undertaken.

(40) A winter clothing drive is to be carried out at present.